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2001-2002

# The Rowan Tree Church 20th Annual Report, Hallows 2001 ce-Hallows 2002 ce

Rowan Tree Church

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## The Rowan Tree Church 20th Annual Report Hallows 2001 ce - Hallows 2002 ce



This is the 20th year that we have produced an Annual Report. The first one, published shortly after Hallows, 1983, included advice given me by a Priestess whom I admired. As one of my teachers and as the Priestess who conducted my Second and Third Degree Initiations, she had watched closely as I created The Tradition of Lothloriën. She said that it was very important that Lothloriën will survive beyond our lifetimes. Second, she said, to "make certain that those who come into our training are fully aware of how good a system of Wicca this is, how complete it is in the training one must have to complete all three degrees of Initiation. She was particularly impressed with the gentleness of our images and yet with the power they are capable of generating." How interesting to look back and see that today, twenty years later, we continue to hold these goals dear.

And where are we this year? We seem to be living in a different world. As I prepared last year's Annual Report our countries were still recovering from the shocking events of September 11th, a date which altered the course of world events. Political concerns today reflect a struggle between those eager to initiate a war which they believe essential to their goals and those who do not want such a war. A year ago, the wounds of New York and the Pentagon still raw and shrieking with pain, war seemed imminent and military defense against the terrorists was the 'patriotic' response.

Today we face a world in which the prospect of war seems to grow stronger and a harmonious world remains uncertain. World violence once again escalates. The recent terrorist event in Moscow is only a recent example. The Israelis and Palestinians seem no closer to resolving their mutual mayhem and political differences and as I write this on Hallows Day, Israel seems to be moving further to the political right. But the violence humans wage on this planet is not only against each other. The gorilla and elephant herds in Africa continue to be decimated. The oceans are continuing to warm, the precious realms of ice continue to melt and the future is uncertain. An Associated Press article published in today's morning paper reports that studies appearing today in the *Journal Science* indicate that as many as 83% of the plant species of the world in Ecuador are threatened and that 22-47% of "all of the Earth's plant species are in danger of becoming extinct."

For most peoples, uncertainty promotes an environment in which distrust of the unknown and fear of the potential perils brings us face to face with our beliefs. It is this question we must ask ourselves. Do we choose to believe that the goal of humans is to live harmoniously with each other? And do we choose to believe that the goal of humans is to live in balance with other species? Do we choose to believe that treating all species with respect is the only way to live? Certainly those beliefs are reflected

in the values of The Tradition of Lothloriën and in the words of its rituals. Lothloriën is our religion and it holds sacred the realm of plants, of plant devas, of all creatures. In this coming year we must embrace our religion and do our part to educate as many as we can to hold sacred the right to life of all species and bring under control the damaging ways by which the human species seeks to satisfy its own desires at the expense of other species.

This past year was one with some significant accomplishments, among them the culmination of twenty years' work toward full and complete recognition by the IRS as a Church. Our organization is very small and its geographically diverse membership which does not provide for itself a meeting place left the IRS uncertain about our classification. Prior to this final ruling we were considered tax exempt as a religious organization but were not legally perceived as a *church*. Does this affect us in any way legally or financially? Not at all, but it is a quiet, *moral* victory.

When we received the ruling, we were told that one issue we needed to address in written guidelines was, in their words, "the hiring and firing of clergy." As a consequence, this past year was one in which the discussion of standards and ethics predominated and the discussions continue. We have very high standards, but the Goddess reminds us to "keep pure our Highest Ideals."

At the same time we are contemplating ways in which the amount of work which is done might be diminished. For so few volunteers The Rowan Tree Church provides more services than what is reasonable. This coming year we will be looking at many of the ministries and activities within the Church as a whole to see how we might decrease the need for donations and for labor.

As the Wheel turns at Hallows we set aside but do not forget this past year. As we move forward, we look forward to the coming year's most important event: our IXX Annual Retreat. This will be held in Yellowstone National Park, possibly the one place upon our planet where it is easiest to grasp that our planet is very much alive.

It may be difficult for many of you to grasp the realities of love and trust which we do have within The Rowan Tree Church. Certainly we do not all like every character trait in every one else but we greatly look forward to being able to share time together. We urge you to please, make your plans and come join with us.

The Rowan Tree Church is more than an organization which manifests The Tradition of Lothloriën. The Rowan Tree Church is also a spiritual family.

With blessings for the coming year,  
Rev. Paul Beyerl

Production for this report courtesy of Jason Hauser.



### total postage and shipping = \$2,030.69

Rowan Tree general budget	\$403.64
postal box rent	90.00
The Rowan Tree News	260.06
BOD mailings	343.92
shipping	7.00
bookkeeping mailing	0.00
subtotal	1,104.62

The Mystery School	427.72
Subscription Library	226.26
Periodical Library	36.27
Tape Library	81.98
<i>The Unicorn</i>	115.03
<i>The Unicorn</i> prize money	9.93
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	28.88
Annual Retreat	0.00
<b>total</b>	<b>\$2,030.69</b>
last year	1,934.14
change	- 96.55

### total printing = \$1,594.05

The Rowan Tree News	\$399.53
BOD printing	245.74
Rowan Tree general budget	63.53
The Mystery School	273.23
Subscription library	75.00
Periodical Library	87.03
<i>The Unicorn</i>	277.04
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	110.47
Merry meet notepaper	62.48
<b>total</b>	<b>1,594.05</b>
last year	962.41
change	+ 631.64

### Financial Statements 2001 - 2002

budget: 1 xi 2001	31 x 2002	change
Church's general operations	\$205.58 \$176.89	- \$28.69
The Mystery School	112.97 48.53	- 64.44
Subscription Library	175.48 158.69	- 16.79
Periodical Library	102.93 94.72	- 8.21
Tape Library	0.00 3.00	+ 3.00
<i>The Unicorn</i>	162.56 120.01	- 42.55
<i>The Unicorn</i> contest prize	400.00 0.00	- 400.00
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	200.62 245.76	+ 45.14
Annual Retreat	462.79 924.34	+ 461.55
Retreat Scholarship fund	283.63 648.72	+ 365.09
computer budget	0.00 160.78	+160.78
Land Fund	756.76 169.10	- 587.66
property tax budget	426.61 437.18	+ 10.57
insurance fund	0.00 215.01	+ 215.01
<u>sales tax for State</u>	<u>12.28 26.30</u>	<u>+ 14.02</u>
<b>totals</b>	<b>\$3,302.21 3,429.03</b>	<b>126.82</b>

### Member Donations for the year: \$3,540.08

Of this amount \$174.51 (5%) is allocated to the Periodical Library. Our target goal is a minimum \$300.00 a month and this year we fell \$60.00 shy of that goal. Donations were down \$88.76 from last year.

### dedicated donations

to the land fund	\$20.00
to the general fund	157.17
to pay property tax	421.50
to <i>The Unicorn</i>	5.00
toward computer expenses	963.50
for library book purchases	37.50
to <i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	86.94

to the Periodical Library	2.85
to the Mystery School	18.50
Tape Library mailing expense	81.41
gift to the Eldermentor	5.00
Retreat Scholarship Fund	244.50
<u>to the insurance fund</u>	<u>215.01</u>
<b>total</b>	<b>2,258.88</b>

Membership donations are the soil and water which keep our tree alive. We are a non-profit organization with, sometimes, too much emphasis on the 'non.'

[Illustration from *The Holy Books of the Devas* by D. Lorden]



### KOWAN TREE CHURCH GENERAL OPERATIONS

The following figures show all sources of income available for our general operations:

balance from last year	\$206.84
Member donations	3,365.57
Member's special donation	157.17
Mystery School grant	0.00
sale of Merry Meet Notepaper	19.00
Rowan Tree t-shirt sales	30.50
donations from non-members	91.00
prisoner donations	90.66
<u>Church's portion of sample packet sales</u>	<u>42.50</u>
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$4,003.24</b>
last year	4,258.36
difference	- 255.12

The following are all operating expenses paid out of The Rowan Tree Church's General Budget:

postage and box rent	\$1,014.02
web site expenses	265.26
Minnesota Agent (legal expense)	220.00
printing	770.42
office supplies	318.24
advertising	19.00
ritual supplies	64.16
computer/printer memory chip	16.32
telephone and fax line expense	367.75
electricity	69.52
misc. maintenance	76.06
rental of storage locker	333.00
portion of portable toilet rental	274.42
legal fees	15.00
<u>bank fees</u>	<u>93.18</u>
<b>balance at end of year</b>	<b>\$86.89</b>

This is what it takes to sustain the essential services of our Church, from the cost of the Rowan Tree News to the cases of paper purchased for letters, mailings, promotional materials. There is toner for the printer, phone calls to cheer ailing Members, counselling, legal expenses, etc.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD

#### President and Founder

The most rewarding news which came to the Board this year was the letter from the Internal Revenue Service indicating that my work was successful in bringing to The Rowan Tree Church full, legal recognition as a *Church*. We have long held legal status and protection as a religion but our non-traditional structure with Members scattered so far and wide made it difficult to meet the traditional standards.

My discussions with the IRS were fruitful. They also asked us to provide guidelines which would indicate circumstances and procedures by which a clergyperson might be asked to step down or, in a more dramatic turning of the phrase, to be 'fired.' While the concept seems far afield from our present-day reality, we can twice look into our past at times when we have had someone in a position of prominence within the Land of Lothlorien who began to



follow an ethical path other than that of our Tradition.

Along with the ensuing discussions to clarify the position of clergy person within a Community I recommended that the Board examine all positions and functions within the Church and bring some definition to the list. Following the recommendation of the IRS I recalled that we once did have a list of job descriptions for all "community positions" (as they were then called) but this had been completed when I still lived in Minneapolis. And I left Minneapolis 13 years ago. We were long overdue to revisit this project. We now have a "Task List" which helps everyone involved better understand what any volunteer must do as well as providing guidelines for making changes and remembering issues of accountability and responsibility.

The other significant topic before the Board involves finances, that ever-present topic which follows every organization like a shadow. Although the majority of our Church Members may think of the acre of land which was donated to the Church as someone else's responsibility, the reality is that issues of liability affect every Church Member. At present we cannot afford liability insurance. So far we've been lucky but at some point the cost of insurance must be provided by the Church's budget.

It has been, this past year, a great pleasure to work with this Board of Directors. I am currently providing guidance to another small organization, showing them how a Board of Directors is able to function, discuss issues and make decisions even when they are not limited by geographical boundaries. This system of monthly "meetings" (all done by printed material and mail) was first developed many years ago. On a shelf in the storage locker among the archives the date could undoubtedly be determined. I have kept copies of all publications, of all printed reports and Board of Directors' correspondence. I felt at the time that opening the Board to those who did not live in Minneapolis was essential if we were going to manifest Lothlorien as it should be. Our current Board includes wonderful individuals living in California, Colorado, Illinois, Nebraska, Ontario, and Washington.

It is easy to think of the Rowan Tree as "them" and as "there" but the only boundaries which separate you from active involvement are those created of your own life. Not everyone has time nor even inclination, but we are working to be there for you and, should you wish to become involved with us, you will be welcomed.

On behalf of all of those in positions of responsibility, I extend blessings.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl

#### **Vice President, Board of Directors**

This year I have again had the opportunity to serve as Vice President for the Board of Directors. In that role, I have taken on two projects for The Rowan Tree. The first of these is serving as chair of the Yellowstone Committee. Everyone who has submitted a deposit to attend next year's retreat in Yellowstone should have received a letter from the Committee. Our goal is to establish the guidelines for attending the retreat, and to take responsibility for correspondence with members regarding payment schedules. My thanks to other Board members who have taken the time to serve on this Committee.

I am also serving as editor of The Rowan Tree cookbook. This project has been in process for quite a while, and the finished product should be available soon. I have learned a lot by working on this project, especially about layout of a publication. It has been a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow. Again, many thanks to each of you who have sent in recipes. I hope that everyone will be pleased with the finished cookbook. It should make a wonderful Yule gift. The work I do on the Board of Directors is my way of trying to give back to The Rowan Tree. Having an opportunity to be of service is a great gift, and a vital part of my spiritual path. I hope to continue along this path.

Blessed be, Donna

#### **Secretary, Board of Directors**

Greetings to all the Rowan Tree family! Again this

year, I have had the privilege of serving you as Secretary to the Board of Directors. I send thanks to you for assisting me in fulfilling my duties, by sending your monthly forms, donations, cards, and letters. I know that my responses have not been as timely some months as in the past, and I know that during the winter (read: "less gardening") I will stay on top of this more effectively.

Your letters and notes are one of the most important parts of the RTNews. Did you notice that the September issue had only nine pages? If you also glance at my Secretary Notes in that issue, you will see that we were very low on monthly forms and notes during August. That results in less material for RTNews. We do not just want to put in "filler."

Your requests for energies from the Galadhrim through the Child of Light Rituals have given strength to many and allowed others to offer their services. In the coming year, we hope to have more people write in about the results of having this ritual worked for them. This would encourage both those who do the ritual and those who might be thinking of asking to be put on the list.

On September 6, you completed voting for the Board of Directors for the coming year. Many thanks to those who took time to participate in this important facet of the Church.

I continue to send out the two- and three-month reminders to Members who have not submitted Membership forms or responded during a past two or three month period. Current Membership lists are kept in the archives, with copies of current lists sent to the Tape Librarian each month. I am also sending the current Membership list each month to the e-group coordinator and the Member interview people. They have expressed an interest in corresponding with other Members, interviewing them for the RTNews, or just sending notes of encouragement in difficult times.

As you have noted again this year, my Secretary Notes has included information and encouragement for attendance at the Yellowstone Retreat/Annual Meeting next year. It is exciting to know how many of you are planning to participate. It is also a blessing to know that some of you, even though you personally cannot attend, are making donations to the Retreat Scholarship fund, so that others can attend without experiencing severe financial hardship. Bless you!

If you have any questions about your Membership status, or about my duties as Secretary, please send me a note. And please keep those monthly forms arriving at the Grove!

Blessings, Gerry Beyerl

#### **Treasurer, Board of Directors**

I've just recently begun my position as Treasurer for The Rowan Tree Church, holding this office for about four months. I have been in contact with the Board of Directors since February of 2002, reading past agendas and providing input following the current issues as a Board Observer which gave me quite a good feel for what items are being circulated for discussion. Due to the resignation of our former Treasurer Jane Anderson it was felt by myself and the rest of the Board that taking on this responsibility would be an incredibly useful adjunct in getting deeper acquainted with the financial operations of The Rowan Tree Church within my position as asst. General Manager.

As Treasurer thus far I have had the chance to be proxy for another Board member at the Annual Meeting, as well as taking notes during the discussions at that event for the rest of the Board members who were unable to attend. Being Treasurer also entails bringing information to the Church through the RTN regarding how donations are used, costs of various Church operations, and to help us all understand even more clearly how important each and every one church member is to the continuance of our beloved Rowan Tree. These are various reports that I have begun to submit to the RTN, and will continue to do so.

There has been one quarterly audit that I have performed so far as well as keeping a duplicate set of financial books. This position has been incredibly informative for me, and I will continue to share with the rest of the Church what our financial situations are looking like. I understand that



consistently hearing about the financial needs of this organization may sound redundant or even annoying after awhile, yet it is my intention to bring a sense of community within this realm of The Rowan Tree. If we can all see and appreciate each others efforts in helping the Church run efficiently financially we can further explore and expand our ideals regarding what it individually means to be a member of The Rowan Tree Church.

Wonderful Fall Reflections, Jason Hauser

### Scribe, Board of Directors

The position of Scribe is a multi-faceted role. The Scribe is responsible for reporting the monthly Board discussions through the "Notes from the Board" column in The Rowan Tree News. The Scribe also maintains a record of all Board activities during the year, as well as assisting the Treasurer with the quarterly audit. Also a part of the Scribes duties are duties relative to the preparation of notices and ballots when appropriate

Tricia Youngquist

### Observer Monitor, Board of Directors

Over the previous year, I have served the Board of Directors of the Rowan tree Church in the capacity of Voting Director. Over the course of the year, I was appointed to the newly created position of Observer monitor. As part of my role, I assisted in clarifying the Observer position and re-writing the positions guidelines for the BOL procedures. Since that time, I have worked with 4 Observers and have made adjustments to the Observer monitor position. In the past month, I was asked to function as HG Representative with Charly and Jason. I am exited about the opportunity to serve in this capacity and look forward to beginning a new term of service this Fall.

Isaiah

### Voting Director, Board of Directors

I have continued to serve on the Board of Directors this year, responding to agendas and voting on motions. I have also taken on a portion of the Local Community Representative responsibilities and will be providing communication services to local community members as well as writing short articles about Grove activities for the RTNews each month. I look forward to attending the Annual Meeting next year at Yellowstone and participating in future BOD fundraising and planning efforts.

Blessings, Charly

### Observer

This year I was appointed to the BOD as an Observer. Despite an absence of only a year, I found that much had changed. It has taken me several months to become familiar with the ongoing discussions. I have applied for another term with the BOD as Observer. I look forward to continuing to participate in the discussions about current Rowan Tree Church issues and concerns.

Blessings, Jim Saigle

### The Unicorn



Within the realm of *The Unicorn*, the world of newsletter publishing remains stable. Our subscription level is down 5-10% when compared with four or five years ago. As nearly all publications have found, the immediate gratification of free access found in the internet is a daunting competitor and yet *The Unicorn* continues to provide news of The Rowan Tree Church as well as considerable insight into our deeper mysteries which are being manifest in the astral temple. Those outside of Lothlorien continue to be charmed by the content and quality of the publication which was the foundation of the Church's creation.

This past year we completed our 25th anniversary contest. We had more than \$1000.00 in cash and prizes to

award. It was a fine success, bringing to our readers new contributors and some great material. Now we return to our more usual sources, bringing the works of Church Members and of Novices and Initiates within The Mystery School to print.

To date the search for an assistant editor has not ended. The publishing schedule has made this quite a challenge as *The Unicorn's* production work takes place during business hours when most would-be volunteers are already employed.

This coming year we will be bringing some new contributors into print and Andrius will remain as one of the most joyful beings in the Land of Lothlorien. At this time we also believe that the world found in the Land of Lothlorien described in *The Hatchling* will continue to evolve. There are no plans to bring this phase of manifestation to a terminus.

We encourage all of you to become more involved in *The Unicorn*. As one of the few remaining publications in print, *The Unicorn* represents the finest from the founding years of modern Wicca. There is no reason for it to not have a long future.

With editorial blessings, Rev. Paul Beyerl, editor

beginning of year	\$162.56
transfer of unclaimed prize money	140.07
Member donations	5.00
nonmember donations	0.00
Member subscriptions	89.00
nonmembersubscriptions	249.00
sample packet revenue	36.75
Hatchling, samples, etc.	48.00
<u>Prisoner subscriptions</u>	22.80
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$753.18</b>

postage	\$120.03
computer	80.00
printing	281.04
advertising	39.00
office supplies	63.21
<u>telephone storage</u>	49.89
<b>total expenses</b>	<b>\$633.17</b>
balance	\$120.01

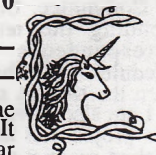
*The Unicorn's* yearly budget also began with prize money from the 25th anniversary contest. Because of some contest winners changing their address without providing us with a new one there was an amount of unclaimed money that was placed into *The Unicorn's* general budget.

<u>beginning of year prize money</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
postage	\$9.93
website	75.00
awarded prize money	175.00
<u>transfer of unclaimed prize money</u>	<u>140.07</u>
<b>total expense</b>	<b>\$400.0</b>

### The Littlest Unicorn

Here we are at the end of another year. The wheel has certainly traveled fast this year. It all seems rather a blur. It has been a year filled with many great hardships and horrendous national tragedies but it has also been a year of a great number of people coming together to help one another. I purposely did not address these horrible events within the pages of *The Littlest Unicorn*. I didn't feel as if I should. We were being bombarded by the news media and I didn't want the kids to have yet another place that was reminding them of the sad news. I felt it more important to remain a constant, positive forum that was well grounded. A place that was still solid, still there for them.

It has been a continuing year of improving contributions of articles and stories by readers and by Rowan Tree members. Everyone has enjoyed the wonderful stories by Tasha Halpert; the articles by Gray Fire Wolf always inform and express a great love of nature; the Deva stories by Rev.





Paul are always a source of fun and knowledge and I thank him for sharing them with our readers. We've had countless stories, games, articles and personal experiences that have graced our pages this year. A big Uni-hug to all who contributed!!

Membership has stayed pretty constant too. We've stayed right around 10-12 paying members with an average of 2-3 copies per issue being sent for contributions. We really didn't see that the membership improved while we had an ad running in the Circle. No doubt that we need to find some way of increasing circulation.

At this time I am announcing my resignation as editor of *The Littlest Unicorn*. It has truly been my pleasure and I have thoroughly enjoyed the past four years. I have sent my formal resignation to the Board of Directors. I will conclude my term with the Hallows issue. It is my great hope that my successor will cherish and nurture the TLU as much as I have. Thank you to all of my readers and to everyone who has contributed and shared a piece of themselves over the past years. I really felt as if we were a family. I love you all.

Sincerely and with many Blessings, Noël Knower

At this point in time the Board of Directors is still deliberating on what the fate of *The Littlest Unicorn* should be. There was, for a brief period, someone who had expressed a desire to take on the responsibility of editor but the commitment seemed to much. As we stand now there is no one to replace Noël. The Board is looking at several options including potentially changing the publishing schedule to be issued quarterly.

beginning of the year	\$200.62
donations from members	0.00
nonmember donations	86.94
Member subscriptions	27.75
sample packets/samples	14.25
subscriptions	88.95
prisoner subscriptions	7.50
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$426.01</b>

postage	\$33.88
printing	110.47
supplies, archives, etc.	35.90
<b>total expense</b>	<b>\$180.25</b>
<b>balance</b>	<b>245.76</b>

## THE MYSTERY SCHOOL



Life within The Mystery School is a source of constant wonder. Participating in the excitement of a new Novice Supplicant entering The Mystery School is an inspiration. The other side of this is seeing someone take leave after many joys and tears, many Circles and hours of conversation. "Each of us has our own timing" is from *The Admonition* but even so, this wisdom may not exempt one from a sense of loss when a dear one departs.

Every year within The Mystery School we consult an Oracle through The Tarot Ritual. This year was the 20th time we have embraced this profound Mystery. We were advised to look deep within ourselves, to question our commitment to The Tradition of Lothlorien and to examine our relationship with our goals and our future. And so we have.

Of the new students admitted to The Mystery School, several spread their wings, dipped their pens into the work of the written Book of Shadows and undertook the first steps of the Pathworking within the inner Mysteries of The Tradition of Lothlorien. As happens every year, some discover that their expectations of work within The Mystery School are different than what would best suit their lives and some discover Lothlorien to be a Path to which they wish to continue devoting their spiritual work.

This year is marked by several events. Ron Weroski, who had been on a sabbatical for several years, had begun his recovery and begun to take on responsibilities.

Although it had been hoped that he might be able to resume his duties and fulfill the role of ordained clergyperson of Lothlorien, he found that his path to self-empowerment has led him elsewhere. We accepted his resignation and wish him strength and a joyful future as he embarks upon a new direction.

Although unsettled at Ron's departure, we also celebrate the ritual Dedication of a new student, one who has worked hard toward that goal. We extend vigorous congratulations to three Novices each of whom has successfully completed the hard work of the First Ordeal - the first half of the body of work one must accomplish toward one's first Initiation. And, with that goal in mind, we anticipate a First Degree Initiation this coming year. There are many joyful changes taking place.

Through this past year's evolution we find that we are, collectively, more focused and more committed. There is a strong sense of community among the novices and initiates, bonds which continue to evolve and grow. There are many who fantasize about entering The Mystery School, in part because the poetic written Tradition appeals to them. For some it is a desire to be perceived as part of an elite, a way to empower one's self. For some the work within The Mystery School is considered one way to attain credentials and be able to promote one's self as worthy of recognition by one's peers.

The reality, however, is that the Path of Lothlorien is one which is a life-long journey leading to a deep and profound wisdom. If we count the work which lies before us in many lives, it is a Wiccan path toward enlightenment, yet our love for our planet and our sense of duty toward our fellow creatures (plant, creature, mineral and human) is one we hope will bring us back again to Mother Earth in service to Her and Her children. We believe that it is a good thing we have many lives in which to become perfect.

## The Bardic Path

We expect a little dust and clutter as the Bardic Path undergoes renovation. This will be a major reworking of the work required of a student. It was perhaps 15 years ago that a wise Bard and I discussed the creation of the Bardic path as a complement to the academic studies which lead to ordination. When the 'program' had been completed I was slightly unsettled to see that little had been changed other than the addition of creative exercises to the academic assignments. The new changes will allow a student to become a Bard in the true sense. To those who are part of the Church Membership, you will probably see none of the dust and construction and a new student in the Bardic Program will see only what is new. For those of us in the inner circle of laborers it is very exciting and very profound but, like all 'trees,' it will take time.

Work is under way, at the recommendation of the IRS, to answer their question of what guidelines we offer regarding the "hiring and firing of clergy." In a small organization, one which requires exceptionally demanding ethics, this has not been a great concern in past years. We are, however, clarifying the responsibilities and ethics of Second Degree Initiates (our clergy) and it has proven to be a most valuable process. This has become the work of providing information about expectations which are complimentary to the Highest Ideals and consistent with the ethics and practices of The Tradition of Lothlorien.

We know, historically, that there have already been times when someone who was loved and trusted took a different fork in the road. Twice those decisions involved the use of illegal substances. If we are pragmatic, we know that we cannot guarantee the actions of any future Initiate and are now looking at guidelines for the Book of Shadows which will further shape the future of Lothlorien for the coming centuries. This is very important work and is presently in the hands of the Council of Elder(s).

That project, which included asking the Board of Directors for their opinions, has led to other evaluations which will benefit students and will also enhance the manifestation of Lothlorien for all Church Members.

The Council of Elder(s) is now working to improve the Orals which are taken prior to each level of Initiation. Examples of this include questions which evaluate:



community service and awareness of Church publications and history. We feel that it is important for an Initiate to not only be a role model of the spiritual 'knowledge' but to also be a role model as a 'citizen' of Lothlorien.

It is incomprehensible for me to sit back and realize that I have been working for the future of Lothlorien for over 25 years. I know that I have more work to do before it is my privilege to become compost. The work is not always fun, but it does always lead to growth, to further wisdom, and it brings the most comforting sense of fulfillment.

My work is not yet done yet you have my assurance that I will continue this work.  
Rev. Paul Beyerl, founder

### Mystery School Operating Budget

beginning of the year	\$112.97
45% of tuition paid	1,521.00
Member donations	18.50
nonmember donations	22.00
<u>sales of ritual books, etc.</u>	<u>500.89</u>
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$2,175.36</b>

postage	\$508.32
printing	322.59
office supplies	249.69
agent	20.00
web site	39.98
educational books for library	177.12
computer	100.64
telephone, fax	324.33
utilities, rent, portable toilet	309.19
<u>ritual supplies</u>	<u>74.97</u>
<b>total expenses</b>	<b>\$2,126.83</b>
end of year balance	48.53

The Mystery School is far more than its basic educational activities. It also includes the following:



### Annual Retreat

This past year our Annual Retreat was a small but happy occasion held on the sacred grounds we know as The Hermit's Grove. This year we look forward to our Yellowstone Annual Retreat, we have many reservations and it will certainly be a time when the bonds of love and joy which unite our membership across the continent will strengthen and grow.

beginning of year	\$462.79
Member reservation deposits for Yellowstone	500.00
Cabin deposits for Yellowstone	980.00
<u>Retreat fees in 2002</u>	<u>57.50</u>
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$2,000.29</b>
phone, utilities	45.95
<u>reservation cancellation</u>	<u>50.00</u>
<b>total expense</b>	<b>\$95.95</b>
end of the year balance	1,904.34

In addition, we now have a scholarship fund to give grants of \$100.00 to worthy Members in need who will be attending the 2003 ce Retreat in Yellowstone.

beginning year donations	\$283.63
Member donations	254.50
nonmember donations	25.00
<u>Boeing Employee donations</u>	<u>85.59</u>
<b>total donations this year</b>	<b>\$648.72</b>

### The Land Fund

beginning of year	\$756.76
Boeing Employee donations	85.59

Member donations	20.00
nonmember donations	15.00
Mystery School tuition	169.00
spiral publication sales	114.50
<u>miscellaneous</u>	<u>8.25</u>
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$1,169.10</b>

CD Withdrawal	1000.00
<b>total withdrawal</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>
balance	169.10

The Land Fund is mandated by our Book of Legislation, accumulating monies which will eventually be used to purchase an acreage of sacred land within the reaches of the Upper Mississippi.

The Land Fund is supported by Member donations, by a percentage of ritual and book sales.

In addition to the money in the checking account, in July 1999 we began to place these holdings into Certificates of Deposit. The total invested is \$7,551.67. To date this money has earned \$766.87 in interest.

<b>total of all Land Fund money</b>	<b>\$8,487.64</b>
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### The Subscription Library

The Subscription Library is always slowly and carefully expanding. New books, donated primarily by The Unicorn and The Hermit's Grove, have been added to the library catalog. Great news is that Suzanne T. has joined the ranks of the volunteers September 30th and began helping in the library on an every-other-Monday basis.

The card catalog project is currently in storage. Local use determines the need for a card catalog and we had neither a volunteer nor do we have space for the card files. Library use by local Members is low despite our having tried "library days" when Members could look through the shelves and check out books. We may try this again in the coming year.

Work on compiling synopses of the books continues, although at present the synopses are being written more slowly than new titles are being added to the library. And yet it is a worthy project, the work being done is something which does not have to provide immediate gratification but which can bear fruit further down the path.

The Subscription Library continues to be under-utilized. Few Members have any idea of the wide range of titles which are available, including a large number of out-of-print books... The interior of the Beyerls' home is dominated by the library. It covers three walls in the main temple (front room), much of the hallway and one wall in the classroom. Painting behind the shelves began last year and will take another year before it's completed, as Rev. Paul is working to paint the interior of their cottage in his free time. We are hoping to have assistance this year in keeping the shelving and the books cleaned.

It is essential to any organization which seeks to provide education for future generations to maintain a worthwhile library. Today, upon the first steps of the 21st century, we live in a golden age in which most homes in North America contain an abundance of books. I believe there must be more titles in print world-wide today than at any previous time. Will this continue? It is unlikely given the unwillingness of most humans upon this globe to make the essential changes which might preserve life for so many species.

It is our belief that our library is a treasure, one which may be valued beyond your belief when future generations study and research all of the subjects needed in order to become the future Bards and Mentors of our beloved Tradition of Lothlorien.

Rev. Paul Beyerl, librarian

How many books do we have in our library? 2,924 books



which, as some are duplicate titles for the books needed regularly by students, represent 2,446 titles.

Botany & Gardening	79 titles	90 books
Children's Books	67 titles	72 books
Counselling & Wellness	72 titles	75 books
Death & Dying	21 titles	23 books
Fiction & Novels	318 titles	404 books
Health & Wellness	111 titles	121 books
Herbals	220 titles	248 books
Miscellaneous	16 titles	16 books
Occult Sciences: Astrology	112 titles	131 books
Occult Sciences: Color	9 titles	11 books
Occult Sciences: Divination & Miscellaneous Arts		
	40 titles	43 books
Occult Sciences: Dreams	12 titles	13 books
Occult Sciences: Gems, Minerals and Metals		
	45 titles	52 books
Occult Sciences: I Ching	11 titles	13 books
Occult Sciences: Miscellaneous disciplines		
	67 titles	72 books
Occult Sciences: Numerology		
	14 titles	15 books
Occult Sciences: Occult and Spiritual Herbalism & Healing		
	38 titles	46 books
Occult Sciences: Spell Magick		
	36 titles	40 books
Occult Sciences: Tarot	50 titles	60 books
Philosophy & World View	84 titles	93 books
Poetry & Literature	54 titles	61 books
World Religions and Mythologies		
	357 titles	420 books
Sexuality, Sexual Issues and Sexual Magick		
	57 titles	63 books
Spiritual Awakening	98 titles	112 books
Unicorns	15 titles	20 books
Western Occult and Magickal Traditions		
	191 titles	244 books
Wicca, Neopaganism and Witchcraft		
	252 titles	366 books
beginning of year		\$175.48
Member donations		37.50
Mystery School tuition		820.00
sales of books by Rev. Paul		579.55
books sold in Hermit's Grove shop		547.78
miscellaneous		6.00
<b>total income</b>		<b>\$2,166.31</b>
postage		\$226.26
book purchases		1,489.65
office supplies		60.96
phone		58.52
utilities, maintenance, storage		97.23
money given to other budgets		75.00
<b>total expense</b>		<b>\$2,007.62</b>
balance		158.6

### The Tape Library

The Tape Librarian's duties are almost exclusively relative to the function of the Tape Library. The normal functions of the Tape Library include copying and mailing tapes for Sunday Circles, archiving Mystery School and Rowan Tree tapes, and providing access to the tapes in the library. The Tape Librarian is also responsible for providing an updated catalog of tapes available.

Due to personal issues in my life this past year, I have fallen behind in my duties as Tape Librarian. My goal for the Tape Library for the coming year is to bring the Tape Library up to where it needs to be for those who need and/or want access to it.

Tricia Youngquist, Tape Librarian

beginning of year	\$0.00
Member donations	85.51
nonmember donations	0.57
miscellaneous	3.00
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$84.98</b>
postage	81.98
<b>total expenses</b>	<b>\$81.98</b>
balance	3.00

### The Periodical Library

The Periodical Library consists of mainly stored materials which are, in many cases, too fragile to access. The Periodical Library is maintained in Moline, Illinois. It is hoped that at some future time we will be able to make this material available for reference.

Tricia Youngquist

### OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH

#### The Rowan Tree News

The Rowan Tree News continues to be published on schedule, reaching Members prior to the first of each month. There have been no significant changes over the past year. Sometimes a smaller font and tightened spacing between lines allowed us to include all of the Member letters which come to the editor from gerry at the Membership Secretary's desk. But there were other times we mailed out a slim issue!

This coming winter we anticipate Jason's work as Assistant General Manager to expand, adding the role of assistant editor for The Rowan Tree News with a long-term goal of becoming editor. The editor's job is quite simple, once the skills are learned. Unlike many neopagan publications, the editor's role is not one of prominence. The RTNews opens with a letter from the founder, letters from Members, relevant news and business, the classified ads and, if space permits, brief excerpts from prisoners and any other columns and articles, including the editor.

As a consequence you are unlikely to see any visible changes in The Rowan Tree News but we want you to know that we are working to ensure that this vital organ of Lothlorien will have a long future.

With well-typed blessings, Rev. Paul Beyerl

#### General Manager

The "really big news" this past year has been having Jason Hauser arrive to begin training as the Assistant General Manager. It was not until mid-September that a workable printer able to handle some of the tasks was able to be arranged. As we moved into Autumn, we are now looking at a winter schedule so that Jason can take on some of the work which has, for many years, been mine to do (often by default).

Although Jason's presence will make a great difference, another volunteer or two would be helpful. We do not have anyone to bind the spiral-bound books and keep them stocked and this would be a useful task.

This past year it became necessary to replace the Secretary's computer. This is the only computer which the Church owns (the other two are provided by Rev. Paul personally and through The Hermit's Grove which is a separate organization, both legally and financially).

Last year our total computer expense (for minor maintenance, program upgrades and the like) was \$179.26. As any organization would quickly note, this is a very



small amount and not very realist. Because your Church operates on less than a shoe string this year reality came to visit. The Secretary had been using Rev. Paul's old computer, one so old it had not been possible to replace the printer when it died. That computer was nine years old - neolithic in computer years. How hard did reality knock when it came to visit? The cost this year was \$1,359.34. The sticker shock could be avoided in the future if your Rowan Tree had a better base of support and could set aside \$30.00 a month into a computer budget but, alas, much of the time it just barely gets its bills paid. A small organization like this is usually hard-pressed when it comes to meeting expenses yet, just like the government, there is always a desire for an increase in services, particularly those which arrive at no cost to the participants. Meanwhile, the budget is turning increasingly red.

As you can tell, the most difficult aspect of this position is simply getting the bills paid and encouraging the Board to help the Members understand the "so below" aspects of Rowan Tree reality. And so, how have things gone and how will they this coming year? I am, generally, managing, pun in hand.

Rev. Paul, General Manager

Asst. G.M.

It has been with immense excitement that I've undertaken the position of AGM for the Rowan Tree Church. I began this work at the start of June and have already learned a great deal about Church operations. Working with Rev. Paul six days a week I've begun to understand the basic layout and editing operations in use for the Rowan Tree publications, and am working towards eventually providing the layout for The Rowan Tree News, beginning by doing the layout for this edition of the Annual Report. I have become much more familiar with the Prisoner Outreach Program and am now handling initial inquiries into this program, as well as sending out the information flyers for those who are wanting to know more about The Rowan Tree Church and The Hermit's Grove. And, of course, there is plenty of newsletter folding, envelope stuffing and stamp licking.

I have become one third of the three part unit that is the Hermit's Grove Community representative, and although this position is still under the process of further definition have been able to provide service through providing a 'meet and greet' personality for new arrivals at Sunday Circles, giving informal garden tours for those who've yet to experience the beauty here, and have attended a Wiccan social event (along with Isaiah) as a representative of The Rowan Tree Church.

Wonderful Fall reflections, Jason Hauser



## THE GALADHRIM

As the "Head-Horn" of the Galadhrim Society of Unicorns, it has been my honor and duty to communicate with the other Unicorns, to let them know how we are all doing and to remind them of their commitment to support and communicate with each other. Currently, there are fifteen Unicorns offering services of many types to the Church Members and each other. Please remember that any Church Member may join. If you are interested in becoming part of the Galadhrim, contact me at the Grove for more information.

The Child of Light healing rituals have been continued and are a major focus of our group working. Many thanks to each Member of the Church that has made a request for

healing energies. Your requests help us to stay focused on the importance of this working. We would always like to hear how our working of this ritual has brought relief or extra energy to those whose requests we have honored.

Each Unicorn has been asked to submitted a brief statement about their service for the past twelve months. I hope these responses from the Unicorns about what they have been doing in service for the Church during this past year is helpful to you in understanding how the Church Members are important.

In Service, felaróf

I am the town crier, blowing on my 'horn' for the COL or any other important messages that must get out to our herd.

In Service, Amalthea

My Galadhrim services have suffered terribly this past year. It saddens me considerably to look back at my inability to fulfill my obligations in this area. I hope to be able to catch up with myself over the next 6months

Valerian

Over the past year, I have worked to be in touch with new Church Members through interviews for the RTNews. Five interviews were conducted and three made it to print (through no fault of the publisher). Sometimes I struggle with expressing myself verbally and in writing - hooves are hard to use for typing! I will continue to work to communicate when I have things that need to be said.

I was able to represent the Church at a recent COG gathering, along with Hereshka. (Actually, our humans were there and we were just kind of hanging around with them.) I hope to work with my human on coordinating some of the transportation for the Church Members who might fly to Seattle and then travel to Yellowstone for next year's retreat. Please contact me or my human (Isaiah Dearborne) if you would like information about this.

Lindreau

My primary work within the Galadhrim this year has been participation in the Child of Light ritual. Members of our Church Community, our own family and the Earth Herself have seemed to require healing energy. The Child of Light Ritual offers a chance to make energy available to those who wish to use it in their lives. Communication within our Unicorn herd is always welcome and rewarding. I look forward to another year of fellowship and healing.

Keerdan

I continue to volunteer my sewing skills to Rowan Tree Members in need of a ritual robe. I look forward to getting caught up on my sewing this year and participating in Galadhrim Inductions, and sending healing energy to those in need.

Odonata

I was inducted into the Galadhrim last May, and since my induction have helped my human move across the country and relocate in Seattle to assume service in the role of Assistant director of the Hermit's Grove. Previously I assisted Orion with the writing of the article Chiron's cave for The Unicorn, yet now the opportunity to expand our volunteer work has arrived. Within our service, we provide assistance for Rev. Paul during the Garden Intern program, helping to facilitate the selling of herbs, writing brief blurbs for the RTNews, and working in the Grove gardens. It has been wonderful to trot among there gardens here in Kirkland, (and snack on Borage flowers when no one is watching).

Hereshka

During this past year, I have been welcomed back into the herd of Unicorns after a long hiatus. For my service



project, I am serving as editor of the Rowan Tree cookbook. This has entailed collecting recipes, transcribing them, and formatting the collection into a book. Many thanks to everyone who provided their favorite recipes! It is my hope that the cookbook will help to raise funds for the church. It would make a great Yule gift for a loved one. Although this project has taken much more time than I anticipated, it has been a great learning experience for me. And a way for me to give back to the Rowan Tree some of the many blessings I have reaped from being part of the wonderful organization.

Carling

### Lay - Ministry Program

This year, we added one new Lay-Minister to the group. Isaiah Dearborne completed his adjudication and was certified as a Lay-Minister of the Rowan Tree in April. that brings the number of Lay-ministers to five, including Jim Saigle (Canada), Tricia Youngquist (IL) and Lizard Frank Cordeiro (OR). Some are more active than others, but all are excellent sources of information about the history, traditions and rituals of the Church. And we have had interest shown in the Lay-minstrel section of the training by Donna of CO.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Lay-minister or -minstrel program, please write to gerry Beyerl at the Church's Kirkland office for more information. The program takes work to complete, but those who have completed it have a great knowledge of the Rowan Tree's beliefs and functions.

Blessings, gerry Beyerl, Lay-Ministry Coordinator

I was able to complete the requirements to become a Lay Minister after a lengthy process, and redoing my application which disappeared from my computer at one point. Just prior to my adjudication, I had the experience of participating in a Rowan Tree community outside the Grove. It was a brief time that three of us were together, but I learned a great deal about functioning as a Community. I am grateful for the experience and look forward to embracing further aspects of Lay Ministry.

In Service, Isaiah Dearborne

This year I began to do some simple Tarot card readings for friends and Members of The Rowan Tree Church. Counseling is a traditional service offered by clergy. The cards offered insights which did not come to mind as easily in conversation as they did through the cards.

My other interest has been researching the structure of other religious organizations. The ways they function on a day-to-day basis and the ways they meet their current goals and commitments may help us in the management of our own church affairs. I look forward to a busy and most interesting year within The Rowan Tree Church.

In Service, Jim Saigle

My Lay Ministry service has suffered terribly this past year. It saddens me considerably to look back at my inability to fulfill my obligations in this area. I hope to be able to catch up with myself over the next 6 months.

Tricia Youngquist

### Prisoner Outreach Program

The Prisoner Outreach Program has grown and has once reached its capacity of 30 but quickly dropped back down into the mid-20s where it seems to stay. We average 27 prisoners.

Those prisoners who remain with the program consistently report that it has made a significant change in their lives. This year we began to see the first prisoners released. Of these a couple have sought Membership in The Rowan Tree Church. When space permits, brief excerpts are included in *The Rowan Tree News*. This past year we saw some prisoners step forward and make financial donations well beyond the average. Several made significant

donations which totalled just over sixty dollars toward the cost of replacing the computer. In addition, over \$75.00 was donated to guarantee that the costs incurred by the Prisoner Outreach Program so not create any burden upon the Church's general budget. With the prisoners demonstrating this degree of responsibility, we can report that this year the program has been self-supporting in costs.

The printing for the stamp barter materials (rituals and books which have been reformatted and condensed so as to take as few pages as possible) continues to be done at my desk, holding the cost significantly lower than having it done at a professional service, although it adds to the wear and tear of the laser printer. Recently Jason began processing incoming requests for information to which we respond by sending a flyer.

With many blessings, Rev. Paul Beyerl

This year prisoners contributed \$90.66 to The Rowan Tree's general funds as well as \$77.20 to the computer needs that the Church faced over the summer. It is wonderful to see such commitment and care from those whose financial situations are under such strain.

total prisoner donations **\$167.86**

### THE HERMIT'S GROVE

Although there are changes such as the evolution of the gardens and the property which comprises The Hermit's Grove, there are few within The Hermit's Grove as an organization. Jason Hauser's goal is to become an assistant director but at present his primary work has been for The Rowan Tree Church and his "Grove" time has been spent attending classes, working in the gardens and learning how to assist with filling the occasional mail order. And the latter work has been a great blessing. Jason has brought exuberance and a willingness to work hard in the gardens. During the summer months his schedule allowed him many days to learn his way around the many beds and the devas were blessed with his spirit.

The gardens have seen wonderful expansion. In previous years we often spent time putting in a new garden, spading up the old turf and knocking loose the rich soil. The sod heads to the compost mound and the remaining soil is turned deep. By this year there were no longer any places for new gardens but there remained stretches of grass. Ever narrowing, mowing no longer took so many hours, but now we've set out sights on the finish. It is quite possible to visualize how the gardens will look when the only grass areas are the few which will remain: the Dancing Circle, the grass along our neighbor's yard, and the grass in front of the house which will remain until after the city runs a sewer line to which we'll connect.

As the gardens expand and the pattern of the paths to walk has grown more profound. Those who come here for spiritual renewal find walking the paths a healing experience. The Stone Circle has become a place where we now have a number of glass (paperweight-style so as to survive the elements) and brass unicorns providing healing for the soul. We continue to add stones from many places around the world so that the Stone Circle allows us to contribute to world unity and peace.

The gardens are 'heaven' for us. But there is still the reality of the nuts and bolts and of paying bills.

The Hermit's Grove has experienced some financial pressure in its goal of assisting your Church. In 2001 the Hermit's Grove spent \$3200.00 to replace the computer I use (the used one I acquired as a gift two years prior simply died of old age) and handle all of the software upgrades, in addition to other maintenance work. For Rowan Tree Members who may think otherwise, none of that cost was borne by the church even though perhaps half of the work done on the computer is church-related. At the time I avoided panic and managed to get it paid for, believing that was the end of major computer expense for the time being.

This year, the unexpected death of the computer in the classroom meant an additional \$1100.00 and then another thousand dollars because my laser printer wore out (you



cannot imagine how hard these small computer systems and printers must work for all of us!). Rather than shutting everything down for ten days, I bought a replacement printer and the afflicted Hewlett Packard was sent to the clinic. It returned, quite rejuvenated, \$200.00 and ten days later and offers a promising future. The Mystery School had indicated that the Tower Card was this year's pattern. It did turn up in computer land for us, but such things can be managed.

Cost saving meant mailing the *Grove Gazette* only twice. This is the bulk mailing sent to the 450 people on the Washington State (mostly Puget Sound) mailing list to promote events and classes for both the Rowan Tree Church and Hermit's Grove. It was also necessary to raise prices for our bulk herbs, for the 'herb shop' is far too effective as a not-for-profit enterprise. Prices are set low enough that even now we're pretty much just breaking even.

Enrollment in the Master Herbalist program has expanded. The program is advanced, comparable to college-level work and more work and challenging than many new students expect, despite our attempts to explain the challenge.

This year's Garden Intern program was a success. We had nine students sign up in March and April, and four completed the program. And this autumn I will be offering a course which looks at the Mysteries of astrology. This is not chart-reading work nor the nature of horoscopes, but is astrology as understood by mystics, alchemists and those who use astrology to understand the nature of divinity. This course is offered once every six or seven years.

The herbal monographs - nearly 200 of them, had their most current revision completed this summer. It's a huge task, one which can only be worked by someone who has completed the Master Herbalist program. The next round of revisions will begin later this autumn, and include appending new information found in such texts as *Native American Ethnobotany*, *Rational Phytotherapy*, and contemporary books on Chinese herbal pharmacology and Ayurvedic medicine.

Back to the business aspects of The Hermit's Grove. Where does The Hermit's Grove find its income? It is all directly related to my professional work. Every penny generated from the classes I teach (including those at the Community Colleges), from herb sales, subscriptions to *The Hermit's Lantern*, books sold, etc. goes directly into The Hermit's Grove. My work has provided The Hermit's Grove with about \$20,000 a year (before expenses). And, as a nonprofit organization, the expenses require nearly every dollar of income, including the money spent to keep books like *A Wiccan Bardo, Revisited* in print (which required \$2500.00 this summer), purchasing the herbs which are sold, etc.

The mission of The Hermit's Grove is to provide the resources and educational needs which are required by those seeking credentials within The Mystery School of Lothlorien. In addition to studying the Mysteries of Lothlorien, additional knowledge requires the study of gem magick, astrology, tarot and other studies, not the least of which is one's relationship with the Goddess through the earth, the soil, the gardens and the healing herbs.

Although my work with The Hermit's Grove is to produce income, my greater work is to engender knowledge. Those working toward Ordination will, in future years, walk the pattern of paths among the gardens. It is along these paths, within certain trees, shared by certain herbal species, sung by certain fruits, that much of the unspoken wisdom of Lothlorien and much of the Oral Tradition of the history of Lothlorien is being held sacred for future generations.

Send us a stone. We'll happily send you one which the gardens have held sacred for thousands of years since the last passing glacier dropped behind some of her collection. The gardens are a manifestation of Lothlorien just as are our Books of Shadows. You can create a physical bond to the ritual magick of the Dancing Circle and Stone Circles.

With love from a gardener's hands,  
Rev. Paul Beyerle

## Asst. Dir Hermit's Grove

There are many similarities between this position and AGM of The Rowan Tree yet probably the largest would be all of the work in the gardens. As asst. Dir of the Hermit's Grove I'm learning how to not only care for the acre and third of land but am also getting a sense of the scope and variety of classes that are taught through The Hermit's Grove. I've had great fun learning and working with the interns which met on every Saturday for the Garden Intern Program, and am working towards taking over more responsibility in being able to guide the interns in their Garden activities. There is also an ongoing Master Herbalist discussion class that meets weekly. It's been great to talk to the individuals who have completed the course. I have also had the pleasure to attend a garden party at one of the Master Herbalist's home and appreciate the wonder that she has created there. I've learned so much already about taking care of plants in general as well as the specific species that inhabit The Hermit's Grove. Pruning Hawthorne trees has been a special pleasure of mine, and a task that will continue throughout the Autumn.

There are Astrological Alchemy and Wicca 101 classes that The Hermit's Grove will be teaching through the fall which should be very exciting. My focus thus far has been primarily on the Garden Intern Program and the Gardens themselves (plus finding time outside of the Grove to progress in my studies within The Master Herbalist Program), yet now that the sun is winding down the activity in the gardens themselves has slowed. As winter approaches and The Hermit's Grove provides more indoor education I'll be there learning and helping as much as I can.

In peace, Jason Hauser

Income	
donations	\$1788.05
Memberships	605.00
royalty income fr. Rev. Paul	2,028.60*
subscriptions	928.00
book and publishing income	3,715.67
herb, plant & gem sales	1,469.65
client sessions	613.75
educational programs	3,526.82
Master Herbalist Program fees	1,343.97
shipping expenses	395.25
sales tax collected	193.65
rebate money	129.90
t-shirts	59.75
<u>miscellaneous</u>	<u>17.82</u>
<b>total income</b>	<b>\$16,815.88</b>

Expenses	
postage & shipping	\$1,263.49
printing	3,462.66
book purchases for shop and library	1,007.58
herbs, gems, etc.	1,907.26
maintenance and repair	2,291.76
garden expenses	1,389.15
supplies for RT rituals	489.09
donation to RT for property tax*	1,265.00
web site/internet	522.94
credit card service	185.01
bank, interest, legal	64.00
computer purchase and repair	1,669.25
office supplies	800.93
educational materials	437.96
advertising	225.75
equipment	188.95
utilities, etc.	1,660.87
telephone	522.51
<u>money given to workers</u>	<u>185.00</u>
<b>total expenses</b>	<b>\$19,539.16</b>